

**JC20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 SEP 2009****WO 2004/085222****PCT/EP2004/001667****CLAIMS**

1. A retractable step for the entering and exiting of vehicles (1), particularly rail vehicles, with a surface which can be walked upon, a retractable step (3), being extended from the vehicle essentially in a linear direction in order to bridge the gap (6) between the vehicle (1) and the platform (5) or the like, the retractable step comprising a device with at least one sensor, which is intended to prevent a collision with objects during the extension operation, characterized in that the device is a strip (7, 7') which is connected movably to the retractable step (3), extends essentially over the entire length (L) of the retractable step and, in the activated state, is located essentially under the leading edge (8) of the retractable step (3), and comprises at least one sensor which detects either the position of the strip (7, 7') relative to the retractable step or the force transferred from the strip to the retractable step.
2. The retractable step as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the strip (7) is a rotatable flap.
3. The retractable step as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the strip (7') is a rotatable bracket.
4. The retractable step as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the strip is a bracket which can be displaced in a guide.
5. The retractable step as claimed in claim 2 or 3, characterized in that the sensor measures an angle between the strip (7, 7') and the retractable step.
6. The retractable step as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the sensor is fitted to the front edge (9, 9') of the strip.